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## RAT PROOFING OF BUILDINGS.

The third ordinance provides that from and after its promulgation every building, outhouse, and other superstructure now erected or hereafter to be erected in the city of New Orleans shall be rat proofed in the manner provided in the ensuing sections. The manner in which various types of buildings shall be made rat proof is given in detail.

## GARBAGE.

One ordinance requires that the owner, agent, and occupant of premises, improved or unimproved, in the city of New Orleans shall provide a metal water-tight container, or containers, with tight-fitting covers of a size to be easily handled and in number sufficient to receive the garbage accumulations of 48 hours from such premises. The ordinance is so worded that it covers all garbage or other similar material which might serve as food for rats. Provision is made for the collection of the garbage daily in part of the city and every other day in the remainder. The object of the ordinance is to keep the garbage from serving as food for rats. All garbage must be kept in garbage containers as described in the ordinance.

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TUBERCULOSIS.

## ITS CONTROL IN MINNESOTA.

The Minnesota State Board of Health at a recent meeting adopted the following resolution in regard to the control of tuberculosis:

Whereas tuberculosis is now recognized as a communicable disease: Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That a case of open tuberculosis must be isolated either in a sanatorium or at home.

*Resolved*, That all early cases shall be so cared for as to prevent the disease reaching a stage that will become dangerous to others, if possible.

These regulations having been promulgated under authority of Minnesota Revised Laws of 1905, section 2131, have the force of law.

To enforce regulations of this kind it is apparent that the State board of health must have some means of knowing of the occurrence of all recognized cases of the disease. This is provided for by a law enacted April 23, 1913, and regulations promulgated November 19, 1913, requiring the reporting of all cases of tuberculosis. (See Public Health Reports, July 11, 1913, p. 1465, and Apr. 24, 1914, p. 1045.) The enforcement of these requirements will give the State department of health the necessary information in regard to the occurrence of cases and will make it possible to enforce the regulations regarding the isolation of open cases and the proper treatment of early ones.

There has been much talk during the last few years among medical men, and especially among those engaged in public health work, regarding the control of tuberculosis. The action of the Minnesota State Board of Health seems to be one of the most logical and sincere efforts to control the disease made by any health department. The results obtained in Minnesota during the next few years will naturally be watched with much interest by all associated with public health administration.

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### SAFE ICE.

By HUGH S. CUMMING, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

From the earliest dawn of civilization, dwellers in temperate regions have during the winter months stored ice for use in the preservation of food or in making articles of diet more agreeable to the taste during the hot season.

The Hindu in the northern Provinces of India from time immemorial has wrapped his porous jug, filled with water boiled to expel air, with wetted cloths, the evaporation from which makes ice during cold, clear nights. The Indian of the Tropics and the cowboy of the plains still take advantage of the abstraction of heat by evaporation.

Romance tells us how the chivalrous Saracen, Saladin, sent to his crusader enemy, him of the lion heart, snow ice from the mountains to assuage his fever. But until the last century the storing and use of ice was a merely local matter.

The growth of large urban populations which depend upon rural communities for food, the settling and development of such great agricultural fields as those of America, Australia, and Argentina, the increase of prosperity and greater demand for foods, and, most important, the increase of transportation facilities which allow the interchange of various forms of wealth, have all served to create a demand for ice. As a result, a great industry has been created and the streams and lakes of New England and the Northern States as well as the lakes of northern Europe are lined with great storehouses in which, by the industry of thousands of men, ice is packed during the winter to be carried later by vessel and train to inland communities and to far-distant regions. Indeed, the natural-ice trade has a romance of its own.

With the increased necessity for transporting food long distances, and demand for ice in places to which it was difficult to deliver natural ice, attempts were made to invent some practicable method of artificially producing ice. About 1868 Carre invented his ice machine, and later Dr. Gorrie, whose statue now in Statuary Hall in the National Capitol at Washington shows Florida's appreciation of his worth, increased its usefulness.